

vertically and performs a first processing for a sheet traveling along said first sheet transporting path; and

5 a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base apparatus and includes a reading element, wherein a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically is defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base apparatus which faces toward said scanner apparatus when said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus, said first and second sheet transporting paths being provided along and adjacent to each other, and whereby said scanner apparatus may be detached from said base apparatus so as to operate as a hand scanner.

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35. An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said scanner apparatus includes at least one pick roller provided on a surface where said reading element is provided, and a protecting member projecting at a side of said surface and protecting said pick roller when said scanner apparatus is used as a hand scanner.

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36. An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said protecting member is provided at a location outside of a reading area of said scanner apparatus.

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37. An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said base apparatus includes a first sheet guide provided at a location upstream of said second sheet transporting path, and said scanner apparatus includes a second sheet guide provided at a location upstream of said second

sheet transporting path, and wherein said first and second sheet guides face each other in a manner that a space between said first and second sheet guides gradually narrows toward said second sheet transporting path in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus.

5 38. A multiple function apparatus, comprising:

5 a first transporting guide including a straight guide and a deflecting guide, said straight guide being formed so as to transport a first sheet straight and is open at one end, and said deflecting guide being formed adjacent to said straight guide at a side opposite said one end so as to transport a first sheet in a direction different from a direction of transport effected by said straight guide;

10 A a second transporting guide provided along said first transporting guide and opposite a direction of deflection effected by said deflecting guide with respect to said straight guide, being provided in a manner that a distance to said deflecting guide becomes longer than that of said straight guide, and being formed so as to transport a second sheet;

15 a first apparatus provided at said straight guide, and performing processing for said first sheet in a case where said first sheet is transported along said straight guide; and

a second apparatus provided in a space defined by said deflecting guide and a portion of said second transporting guide and performing processing for a sheet transported along said second transporting guide, said portion facing toward said deflecting guide.

39. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said first apparatus is provided opposite of said second transporting guide with respect to said straight guide.

40. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, wherein a direction of transport of said first sheet effected by said straight guide and a direction of transport of said second sheet effected by a portion of said second transporting guide which faces to said straight guide form an angle smaller than 90 degrees with the vertical direction in a case where said multiple function apparatus is provided for use.

41. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising:

a first transporting mechanism transporting said first sheet from said straight guide of said first transporting guide toward said deflecting guide;

a second transporting mechanism transporting said second sheet by said second transporting guide in a manner that said second sheet is transported in substantially a same direction as said first sheet;

a first sheet delivery port for delivery of said first sheet from said multiple function apparatus, said first delivery port being provided at a location downstream of said deflecting guide as viewed in a direction of transport of said first sheet; and

a second sheet delivery port for delivery of said second sheet from said multiple function apparatus, said second sheet delivery port being provided at a location downstream of said second transporting guide as viewed in a direction of transport of said second sheet,

wherein said first and second sheet delivery ports are provided at a same side of said multiple function apparatus.


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5 42. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said first transporting guide is provided closer to the front side of said multiple function apparatus than is said second transporting guide, said first apparatus is a scanner, said second apparatus is a printer, and said second transporting guide includes a sheet accommodating part accommodating a plurality of sheets to be fed to said second transporting guide, said sheet accommodating part being provided at a location upstream of said second transporting guide as viewed in said sheet transporting direction.

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43. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 42, wherein a portion of said second transporting guide which faces to said deflecting guide serves as a part of a cover of said multiple function apparatus and covers said printer.

44. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the portion of said second transporting guide which faces to said deflecting guide is movable, so that said printer can be exposed.

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5 45. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said first apparatus and said second apparatus are provided in such a positional relation as to overlap each other

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in the substantially vertical direction in a case where said multiple function apparatus is installed.

Please rewrite claim 7 as follows:

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7. (Once Amended) An apparatus [equipped with a scanner according to claim 6],
comprising:

5 a base apparatus which includes a first sheet transporting path extending substantially
vertically and performs a first processing for a sheet traveling along said first sheet transporting
path; and

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base apparatus and
includes a reading element,

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10 wherein a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically is defined by
a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of
said base apparatus which faces to said scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner
apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus,

15 and wherein said scanner apparatus includes [further including] a pick roller [disposed]
provided at a location upstream of said second sheet transporting path [of said scanner unit] as
viewed in a sheet transporting direction[,] and includes feed rollers [disposed] provided at
locations downstream of said second sheet transporting path [for said scanner unit as viewed
in the sheet transporting direction], said first and second sheet transporting paths being
provided along and adjacent to each other, and wherein said scanner apparatus is so
implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand scanner in a case where said scanner

apparatus is detached from said base apparatus.

[Please amend claim 8 as follows:]

5.5 G. } 8.2 (Once Amended) An apparatus [equipped with a scanner] according to claim 1, wherein [said pick roller is made of a material having low hardness, said scanner unit including auxiliary rollers which are made of a material having high hardness and disposed at sides of said pick roller, respectively, for the purpose of protecting said pick roller when said scanner unit is used as the handy scanner] said scanner apparatus has a protecting member, provided in a manner projecting at a side of said surface of said scanner apparatus, protecting said pick roller in a case where said scanner apparatus is used as a hand scanner.

A2 } [Please amend claim 9 as follows:]

5.5 D2 } 9. (Once Amended) An apparatus [equipped with a scanner] according to claim 8, wherein said [auxiliary rollers are disposed] protecting member is provided at a location outside of a reading area of said scanner [apparatus] unit.

[Please amend claim 10 as follows:]

5.5 G. } 4-10. (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein [said auxiliary rollers are disposed in the vicinity of said pick roller, and wherein grooves are provided in a surface of said base unit facing in opposition to said auxiliary rollers] an accommodating part accommodating said protecting member is provided in the surface of said base apparatus facing

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toward said protecting member.

Please cancel claims 11- 18 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

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5 19. (Once Amended) An apparatus [equipped with a scanner according to claim 1]
comprising:

a base unit including a part of a sheet transporting mechanism;

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and includes at

5 least the other part of said sheet transporting mechanism and a reading element;

a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount
said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

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an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said
scanner mounting portion.

10 wherein either [one of engaging portions] said scanner mounting portion of said base
unit [and] or said engaging portion of said scanner [unit is constituted by] apparatus is a pivotal
shaft for allowing said scanner apparatus to rotate frontwards, while the other [engaging
portion is implemented as a groove or alternatively as a recess for receiving and holding snugly]
is in the form of a holding member for holding said pivotal shaft.

[Please amend claim 20 as follows:]

5 10 20. (Once Amended) An apparatus [equipped with a scanner] according to claim [2]
19, wherein [either one of engaging portions of said base unit and said scanner unit is
constituted by a pivotal shaft for allowing said scanner unit to rotate frontwards, while the other
engaging portion is implemented as a groove or alternatively as a recess for receiving and
5 holding snugly said pivotal shaft] said scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of
operating as a hand scanner in a case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said base
unit.

[Please amend claim 21 as follows:]

SUB 2
A3 21. (Once Amended) An apparatus [equipped with a scanner] according to claim 19,
further comprising: lock [means including a claw and a projecting member adapted to engage
said claw for thereby locking said scanner unit in the state mounted on said base unit] member
locking said scanner apparatus in a state mounted on said base unit.

[Please amend claim 22 as follows:]

SUB 6
A8 22. (Once Amended) An apparatus [equipped with a scanner] according to claim 19
further comprising:
a rotation limiting stopper [means] preventing said scanner apparatus from swinging
excessively frontwards of said apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is attached to
5 or detached from said base unit.

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[Please amend claim 23 as follows:]

23. (Once Amended) An apparatus [equipped with a scanner] according to claim 19,
further comprising:

a deviation preventing stopper [means] preventing said scanner apparatus from
displacing upwardly of said apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said
5 base unit.

Please add the following new claims:

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46. An apparatus, comprising:

base unit;

a scanner apparatus which includes a reading element and can be removably mounted
on said base unit;

5 a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount
said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said
scanner mounting portion, wherein a sheet transporting mechanism is defined by a surface of
said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base
10 unit which faces to said scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted
on said base unit, and said engaging portion and said scanner mounting portion hold said
scanner apparatus in a manner that said scanner apparatus can be rotatable frontward of said

apparatus.

47. An apparatus according to claim 46,

wherein a sheet transporting direction of said sheet transporting mechanism is substantially vertical, and said engaging portion and said scanner mounting portion hold said scanner apparatus such that said scanner apparatus can rotate about a lower portion thereof in a state mounted on said base unit.

48. An apparatus according to claim 46, further comprising:

a lock member locking said scanner apparatus in a state mounted on said base unit.

49. An apparatus according to claim 46, further comprising:

a rotation limiting stopper preventing said scanner apparatus from swinging excessively.

Please amend claim 24 as follows:

24. (Once Amended) An apparatus [equipped with a scanner according to claim 1], [further] comprising: [sheet feeding means formed in a wedge-like shape as viewed in a vertical section by a pair of sheet guides disposed in opposition to each other so that a space defined between said pair of sheet guides becomes gradually narrower toward a sheet withdrawal port; and offset means provided for at least one of said paired sheet guides for limiting stepwise moving of the sheet toward said sheet withdrawal port]

base unit including a part of a sheet transporting mechanism;

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and includes the other part of said sheet transporting mechanism and a reading element;

a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said scanner mounting portion,

wherein a sheet guide provided on said scanner apparatus and a sheet guide provided on said base unit are faced to each other, so that a space defined between said two sheet guides becomes gradually narrower toward a sheet withdrawal port, and offset member is provided for at least one of said two sheet guides for stepwise limiting moving of a sheet toward said sheet withdrawal port.

Please amend claim 25 as follows:

25. (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim [2] 24, [further comprising: sheet feeding means formed in a wedge-like shape as viewed in a vertical section by a pair of sheet guides disposed in opposition to each other so that a space defined between said pair of sheet guides becomes gradually narrower toward a sheet withdrawal port; and offset means provided for at least one of said paired sheet guides for limiting stepwise moving of the sheet toward said sheet withdrawal port]

wherein said scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of operating as a

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hand scanner in a case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said base unit.

Please cancel claims 26 - 33 and add the following new claims:

50. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said base unit is a printer.

51. An apparatus, comprising:

a base unit including a part of a sheet transporting mechanism;

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and includes the other part of said sheet transporting mechanism and a reading element;

a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said scanner mounting portion,

wherein a sheet guide provided on said scanner apparatus and a sheet guide provided on said base unit are faced to each other, so that a space defined between said sheet guides becomes gradually narrower toward a sheet withdrawal port.

52. An apparatus, comprising:

a base apparatus with;

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base apparatus and

includes a reading element;

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a sheet transporting path defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base apparatus which faces toward said reading element in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus; and a cover of said base apparatus guiding a sheet delivered from said sheet transporting path.

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53. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said cover can be opened and closed.

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54. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said cover can be removed.

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55. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is a printer apparatus, and said cover serves as a sheet guide for said printer apparatus.

56. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is a printer apparatus, and a sheet guide of a sheet delivery portion of said printer apparatus and a sheet guide of a sheet delivery portion of said scanner apparatus are provided adjacent to each other.

57. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is a printer apparatus, and a sheet guide of a sheet feeding portion of said printer apparatus and a sheet guide of a sheet feeding portion of said scanner apparatus are provided adjacent to each other.